

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 03834 240734Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 /076 W
-----028982 240822Z /10

R 240700Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PORS SZ
SUBJ: SWISS GOVT PROPOSES FEDERAL POLICE FORCE

1. TO "COMBAT TERRORISM" AND PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (INCLUDING INTERANTIONAL CONFERENCES), FEDERAL BUILDINGS, COURTS AND PERFORM OTHER SECURITY FUNCTIONS NOW HANDLED BY CANTONAL AND LOCAL POLICE, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL HAS ASKED PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE CREATION OF A 1,200-MAN FEDERAL POLICE FORCE, TO BE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL DEPT OF JUSTICE AND POLICE. TOTAL COST IS ESTIMATED AT SF 3.5 MILLION (DOLS 1.4 MILLION) ANNUALLY, PLUS SF 7.5 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT.

2. AS IS CUSTOMARY NOWADAYS IN SWITZERLAND WHEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS ARE CONTEMPLATED, THE RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL COUNCILOR (IN THIS CASE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT, FURGLER) CALLED A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG 22 TO EXPLAIN WHY THE NEW FORCE IS NEEDED AND TO ASSURE THE POPULACE THAT ITS FUNCTIONS WILL BE CAREFULLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. PARTICULAR REFERENCE WAS MADE TO PAST TERRORISTS ACTS AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

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CIVIL AVIATION IN SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS RECENT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE INVOLVING THE JURA AUTONOMIST MOVEMENT AND DEMONSTRATORS OPPOSING NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS.

3. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE, HOWEVER LIMITED, IS LIKELY TO AROUSE OPPOSITION AND

GENERATE DISCUSSION IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE BELIEF
IN THE VIRTUE OF FEDERALISM AND STATES' RIGHTS HAS
PERSISTED EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE UNITED
STATES. PRESS COMMENT HAS ALREADY REFERRED TO
THIS LIKELY OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS OPPOSITION FROM
SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD SEE THIS AS A MOVE TOWARD
A "POLICE STATE".

ODELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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